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# ICE BREAKER



# ICE BREAKER MAGAZINE

ICE BREAKER magazine is published independently by Malcolm Wallhead and Associates as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

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## **EDITORIAL**

After 10 years of Tasmanian Polar Network action, Hobart's Antarctic identity is becoming more and more noticeable, with events such as the Midwinter Festival attracting more sponsors, as well as new members to the TPN. With future Antarctic research programs recently revised and consolidated by the Australian Antarctic Division, including the air link, and the establishment of the new Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC at the University of Tasmania, the opportunities to be involved in developing Tasmania's competitive edge over other Antarctic 'gateways' is right here and now.

IB urges all Tasmanian businesses to contribute to these Antarctic projects and suggests attendance at the forthcoming Procurement and Commercialisation Forum would be a good start. [See flyer]

This edition includes some new, regular contributors, namely Will Hodgman, who has taken over the Antarctic Tasmania portfolio from the Liberal Leader, Rene Hidding, and Donna Roberts, Communications Officer for the ACE CRC. There are several reviews of Midwinter Festival events, including one from our Antarctic Ambassador, as well as a special article about the Ice Box.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Antarctic Affairs, Lara Giddings, recently received a request from the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge UK, asking for a full set of magazines to date. These were sent to SPRI by Antarctic Tasmania and I received an email from Hilary Shibata, Antarctic Bibliographer, thanking me and saying... 'only now do we realise how much we were missing!' So a reminder: any article or advertisements included in Ice Breaker, will now be seen in Alaska, UK, NZ and most Australian states. New subscribers also welcome!

*Anthea Wallhead*

Cover: ACE CRC members from top: Katherine Woodthorpe (Chairman), Bill Trestrail (Silicon Graphics International), Bill Downey (Bureau of Meteorology) and Bruce Mapstone (ACE CEO). [Photo by Chris Crerar, courtesy of ACE CRC.]



## FROM LARA GIDDINGS' DESK



It was with great pleasure that I signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) recently in Brest between COMNAP and the Tasmanian State Government detailing the arrangements to host the Secretariat in Hobart until 2009. The MoU was signed during the week long annual general meeting of Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) held in Brest, France.

Hosting this important Secretariat in Hobart builds on Tasmania's reputation as an important Antarctic gateway for members of the international Antarctic community and helps to strengthen our bid to host other Secretariats such as the Secretariat for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) in the future.

On 1 August 2003, Acting Administrator of Australia, Sir Guy Green hosted the most successful Fourth Governor's Antarctic Forum at Government House. It was attended by 80 prominent members of the Antarctic community.

I'm sure that the Antarctic community joins me in thanking Sir Guy for his passionate interest and support for Tasmania's Antarctic community. This support is often recognised by Antarctic visitors from overseas and lies at the very heart of the State's Antarctic offer. Sir Guy retires as Governor of Tasmania in October 2003 and his work in this area will be sorely missed.

As many of you know the State Government's approach to Antarctic issues is to be found in *Tasmania's Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean Policy Framework*. The framework was launched by the Premier in September 2001 and includes 33 specific actions designed to enhance Tasmania's Antarctic offer. Those actions grew in part from the results from the second and third Governor's Forum on the Antarctic in 1999 and the year 2000. They are largely complete.

At the forum I had the pleasure to announce to the Antarctic community the Government's intention to develop a new Antarctic Policy by March 2004. The timing of this announcement was quite deliberate. The fourth Governor's Forum on the Antarctic provided an excellent opportunity for the key decision makers in Hobart's thriving Antarctic community to work together. It was very appropriate that the forum marked the start of the policy development process. The challenges focus on building Tasmania's role as a hub for international Antarctic research, trends, Antarctic science and technology, Antarctic education and training in a global context and of course, the future of Macquarie Island.

We expect the outcomes of this policy development process to enhance a range of activities that will occur over the next year under the auspice of Antarctic Tasmania. In the next 12 months we have already committed to a number of initiatives including creating a one-stop internet source or web portal leading to the myriad of institutions that make up Hobart's Antarctic community. We will also be reviewing and upgrading our Antarctic heritage trail, or polar pathways trail, around the Hobart waterfront. And we will host an even bigger and better 2004 Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival.

A consultative process will be established to provide the Antarctic community with opportunities to provide further input to the policy development process. In the meantime suggestions and submissions can be forwarded directly to Antarctic Tasmania.

**Lara Giddings**  
**Parliamentary Secretary on Antarctic Affairs**

## FROM THE DESK OF WILL HODGMAN



In 1993 the Groom Liberal Government appointed Tasmania's first Minister for Antarctic Affairs, recognising the possible scientific and economic opportunities that Tasmania could gain from positioning ourselves as a gateway to Antarctica. That Minister provided all Tasmanians with a new vision for how our State saw the opportunities presented by the frozen continent to our south. He focused on the economic development opportunities surrounding the provision of Tasmanian, and Australian, goods to expeditions in our ports on their way south, and he promoted with vigour the scientific excellence in Antarctic studies that Tasmania has encouraged ever since. Since that time, Tasmania's international reputation as a gateway to the Antarctic has flourished under successive Tasmanian Governments.

That Minister was Peter Hodgman, my uncle. It is appropriate, therefore, that I face my new responsibilities as the State Liberals' new Shadow Minister for Antarctic Tasmania with a great sense of history, and a forward-looking perspective. The State Liberals remain committed to ensuring this well-deserved reputation as a centre for Antarctic scientific excellence remains true.

In the ten years since Tasmania first looked seriously to Antarctica with an eye to developing our natural advantages, much has happened for Tasmanians to be proud of. The Australian Antarctic Division is now well and truly entrenched as a significant international, Tasmanian-based research and policy-development institution. The National Oceans Office, based in Hobart, is providing complex policy and technical support of a world-class standard in defence of Australia's crucial coastline and coastal waters. The Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) Secretariat continues to provide logistical services to this very significant international component of the Antarctic Treaty System.

More recently, the Federal Government announced Tasmania would host the Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre (ACE CRC), building on our already large scientific research infrastructure. And, just this month, the Joint CSIRO and University of Tasmania Program in Marine Science was announced as a further example of Tasmania's international reputation for scientific and educational excellence.

The State Liberals will continue to support the role of Tasmania as an Australian, indeed international, centre for Antarctic scientific excellence now, and into the future. We will maintain strong bipartisan support for the advancement of Tasmanian Antarctic activities in line with our fresh, new approach to Tasmanian politics. At the same time, it is crucial for us to examine the possible development of tourism opportunities, fully respectful of the fragility of the Antarctic environment. It is this balance that will continue to exercise the minds of all involved with our State's unique Antarctic connection for many years (and editions of 'Ice Breaker'!) to come, and one which must be solved not by political rhetoric, but by informed scientific consideration.

I am committed to offering an informed and open perspective as the new Shadow Minister, and would welcome any input from Tasmania's Antarctic community to ensure we can continue to position ourselves on the cutting edge of Antarctic scientific and economic development.

**Will Hodgman MHA**  
**Shadow Minister for Economic Development,**  
**Energy & Antarctic Tasmania**





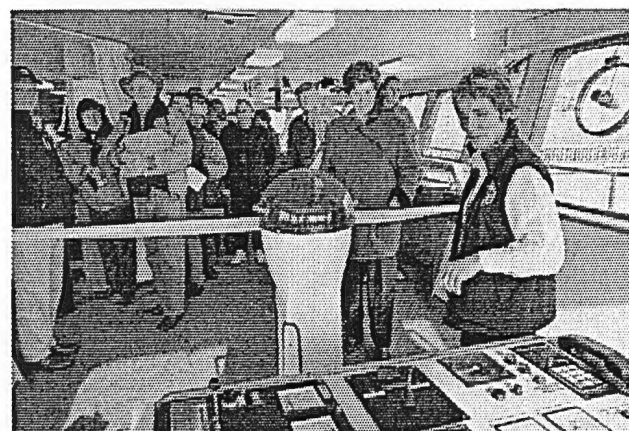
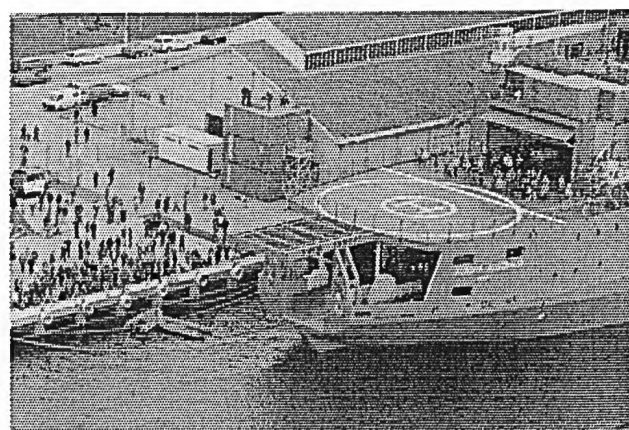
## CURRENT OBSERVATIONS

Changes in the speed and temperature of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current can now be measured accurately every 10 days by using a network of satellites. Radar pulses from the satellites enable scientists to measure the varying height of the sea surface caused by ocean currents, thus providing a continuous record of changes.

## DIVISION MOVEMENTS

The AAD's Antarctic display area will move to a new site on the ground level of the Administration building, as opposed to the lower ground floor.

The native trees and shrubs which divided car parking areas at the front of the AAD buildings have been removed because of alterations necessary to provide for a roadside public footpath, as well as concern for falling branches damaging staff cars. A new native plant garden will be established once alterations are complete.



Public viewing of *Aurora Australis* at the Midwinter Festival. [Photos: Chris Crerar]

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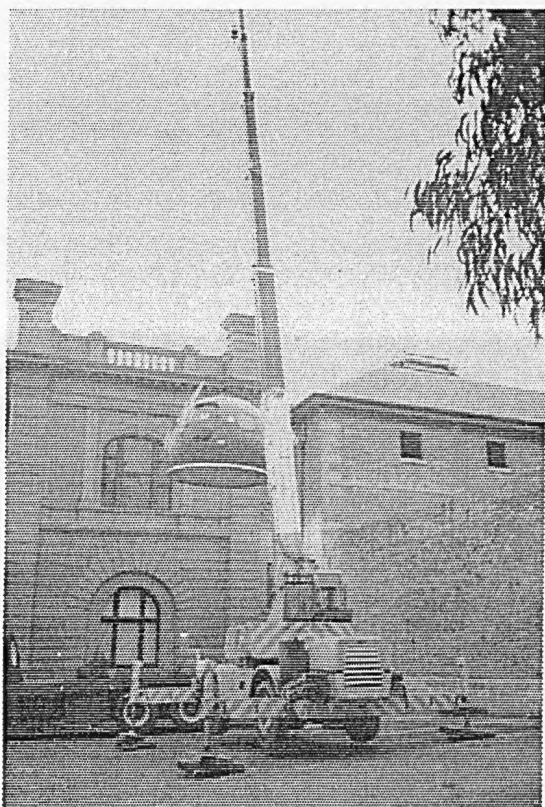
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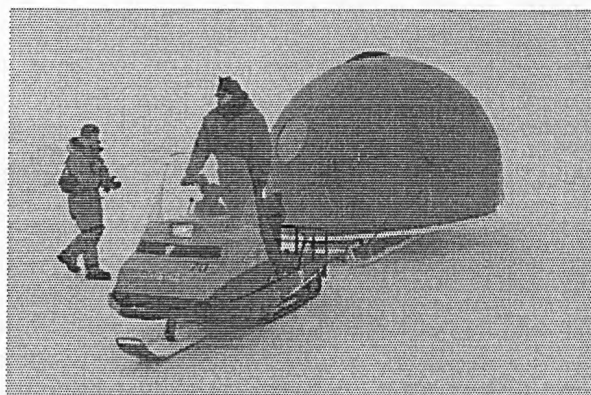
## FIELD EQUIPMENT UPDATE

**Over the wall:** Despite trepidation from the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery's Acting Director, just prior to this year's Midwinter festival, National Parks & Wildlife Service's Igloo Satellite Cabin 106 was successfully lifted by crane over the wall into TMAG's courtyard for the duration of the Macquarie Island display in the Bond Store. The Igloo was visited each day by school children and classes enjoyed the challenge of everyone fitting into the Igloo at the same time. Igloo 106 was used on Macquaire Island by NPWS staff involved in eradicating feral cats.



**Furthest North:** An Igloo purchased by the Alfred-Wegener-Institut(AWI) in Germany was recently used as a base camp at 82 degrees north. Called 'Tomato Island', (German expeditioners call the Igloos 'Tomatoes' while Australians call them 'Apples'!), the base was established on the ice sheet northeast of Svalbard in the Arctic Circle. A small sledge was used to move the Igloo, which had to be 'rescued' by helicopter when a crack appeared in the ice nearby. Professor Doctor Dirk Olbers, who recently visited Hobart to attend the launch of the University of Tasmania's new

Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC, kindly provided photos of the base. (See below).



**Sledge Interest:** A new home has been found for the first PolyPod SnowCamper sledge, a fibreglass, canopy-covered sledge designed by the late Malcolm Wallhead to be towed behind a skidoo. This prototype was purchased by the AAD but sold by auction last year. It was sold locally and the new owner contacted MW&A to find out its history. This renewed interest in the PolyPod coincided with an order for one from the AWI, after 7 years without sales.

## OCEAN FRONTIERS' FUTURE PLANS

The 36 metre, helicopter equipped Ice Ship 'Sir Hubert Wilkins' has been sold to an 86 year old Queensland owner and is not expected to return to the Antarctic. Prior to leaving Hobart the helipad was removed, guest cabins gutted and the forward deck house was demolished. The ship is now in Yamba on the New South Wales coast undergoing a major conversion into a pleasure yacht in preparation for a two-year world cruise.

Don and Margie McIntyre, the previous owners, are returning to sail and are in the process of commissioning a new 21 metre, 28 tonne, aluminium ice-strengthened expedition schooner. Plans are due to be announced on their website [www.oceanfrontiers.com.au](http://www.oceanfrontiers.com.au) in September and the vessel named ICE is due into Hobart in the first half of 2004. Early plans see the vessel departing for the Antarctic Peninsular in late 2004. This new yacht will be in full 2B Survey and some commercial voyages in Tasmanian waters including Macquarie Island may be considered in the future. With a crew of two, 10 guests can be accommodated on board.



## TPN CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



We are now approaching the Summer Season and planning is now well in hand for another summer in the south. During the last 3 months we have seen the great success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Midwinter Festival, which saw a dramatic increase in participation by the public. This represents further achievement of one of the TPN's key objectives of awakening the Tasmanian Community to the proximity and opportunities to our south. I want to acknowledge the hard work and commitment from Paul Cullen and Ben Galbraith and their project team in making this year's Festival happen so well, despite a late start to planning.

I understand that the State Government has already made financial commitment to the Festival in 2004, which means that the organisers will have more time for planning the Event next year. Another significant feature of the 2003 Festival was the vastly increased level of non-Government funding which was found. The TPN played a key role in this, which I think very healthy in that it allows Government to seed the Initiative without building dependence on public funds. This is the real key to the Festival becoming self sufficient and sustaining as a signature Event in Tasmania's annual calendar.

The TPN's 'Commercialisation and Procurement' Workshop is to be held on Wednesday 24th September at Hadley's Hotel. This Initiative flows directly from the adoption of the TPN's new Strategic Plan at the March meeting and holds a deal of potential to 'grow the business' for Tasmania. All Members are encouraged to participate in it.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> August Sir Guy Green hosted his 4<sup>th</sup> and Final Governors Forum on Antarctica, the Sub-Antarctic and the Southern Ocean. This was fitting tribute to Sir Guy's inputs over his years as our Governor in that it outlined the implementation of a lot of issues which were conceived and developed through earlier forums. One of these was Skytraders' Norman McKay's presentation of details planned for the Hobart Antarctic Airlink. This is truly exciting for Tasmania and I want to acknowledge the hard work being done by both Norman and AAD to 'make this happen'. The opportunities now before Tasmania arising from the Airlink are no longer in the realms of 'dreams' but 'possibilities', which are open to our collective and individual endeavours. We are very fortunate to have such opportunities within a climate of willing support and openness from both AAD and the Tasmanian Government. I urge all TPN Members and the wider Business Community to think hard and creatively about this unique opportunity now before us.

The TPN's AGM will be held at 11.00 on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at the Offices of CCAMLR in Harrington Street. Following our meeting we will be hosting a farewell for Sir Guy Green in recognition of his very significant input to our work. This function has been held over for a couple of months in order to fit in with Sir Guy's call to higher duties as Administrator for the Commonwealth. I encourage all Members to attend this function to recognise and applaud Sir Guy's contribution.

As this is my last Chairman's Message in this term of my appointment I want to acknowledge and thank the TPN Executive Members for their support and assistance over the past 12 months. I would also want to pass on the gratitude of the TPN to the Staff of Antarctic Tasmania for their support this year. I particularly note Cordula's contribution as she remains the mainstay of support to the TPN.

**Bill Lawson.**  
**Chairperson, TPN.**  
**August 2003.**

# ACE CRC REPORT



Australia's newest Antarctic research facility, the Cooperative Research Centre for Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems (ACE CRC), was officially opened on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003 by His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania, Justice Cox and the Federal Minister for Science, Mr Peter McGauran.

Launched against the bright orange backdrop of the RSV Aurora Australis, the CRC's brief is to research processes affecting Antarctic and Southern Ocean climate and ecosystems, including global climate change, sea level rise and greenhouse gases.

Australia already has a proud record in its contribution to and leadership of scientific understanding in an often hostile and inhospitable environment. Through its team of expert scientists and students working across a range of research fields, the new Centre will contribute significantly to expanding the foundation of knowledge of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean, how its living resources should be best managed, and its role in the global climate system.

Core partner organisations in the ACE CRC include the Australian Antarctic Division, CSIRO, University of Tasmania and the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology. Supporting partners are the Australian Greenhouse Office, Australian National University, Silicon Graphics Pty Ltd., Tasmanian Department of Economic Development and international organisations Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar Research (Germany), National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (New Zealand) and the Japan Marine Science and Technology Center.

Leading a team of 90 scientists and support staff will be Dr Bruce Mapstone, formerly a Program Leader with the Reef Cooperative Research Centre and CEO of the CRC Torres Strait Research Program, based in Townsville. Chair of the Centre Board is Dr Katherine Woodthorpe.

**Donna Roberts**  
**Communications Manager**  
**ACE CRC**

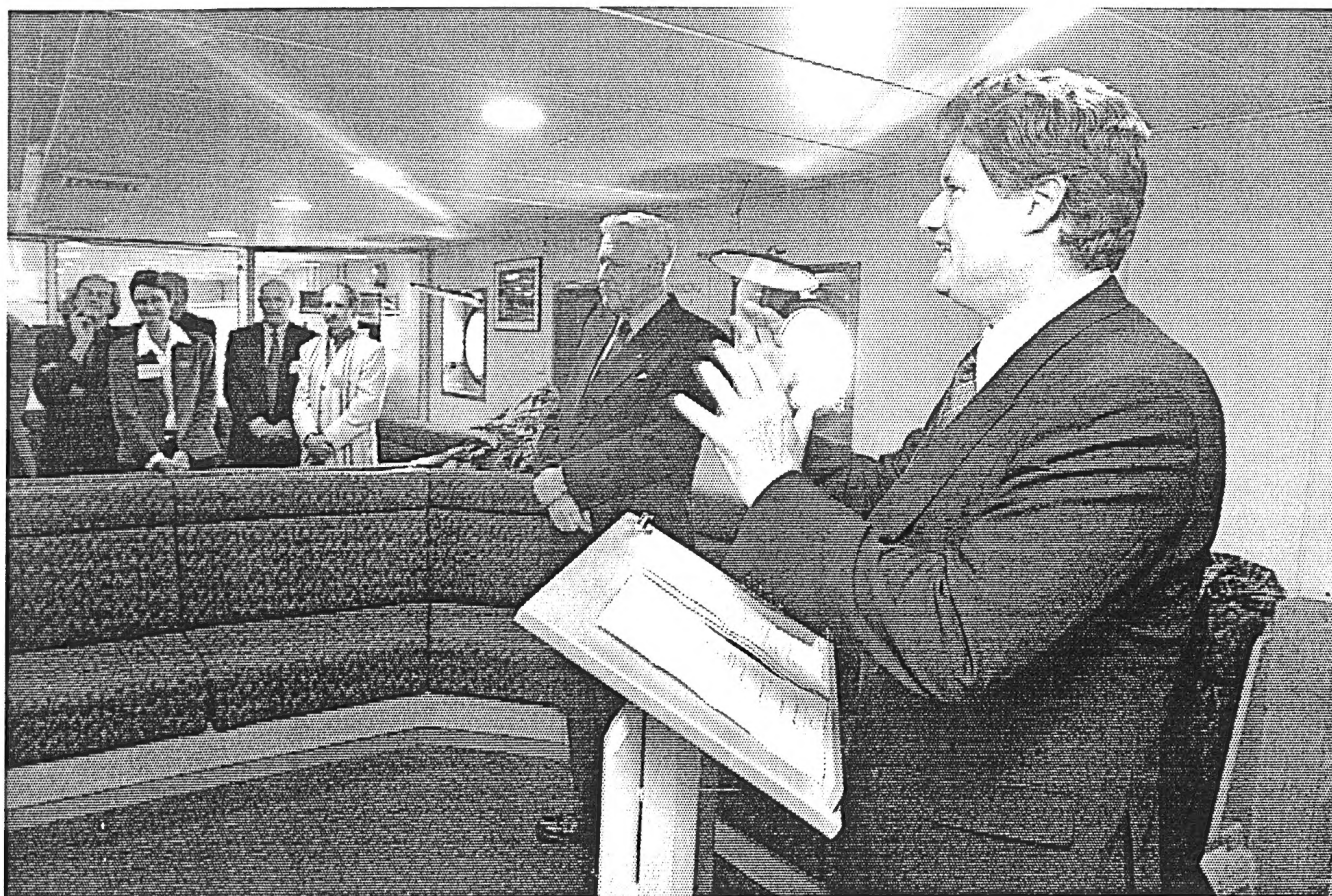
*Extract from the speech made by the Honorable Mr Justice W.J.E. Cox AC RFD ED, the Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania, delivered Thursday, 31 July, 2003.*

'For Tasmania, the benefits of having an Antarctic research centre based here cannot be overstated. While the economic advantage in the form of government funding and support from partner agencies is enormously significant, we must not forget the direct and indirect intellectual gains for Tasmania and, indeed, the world. ACE will provide an invaluable learning ground for 55 post-graduate students who will no doubt go on to make valuable contributions in local, national and international scientific institutions of note. The research work of the equivalent of 65 full time research staff will make a substantial contribution to the storehouse of polar science knowledge and ultimately lead to more effective decision-making on key Antarctic, climate and marine eco-system management issues.

Also on a local level, ACE shall act to extend intellectual capital and the local skills base through the involvement of the Tasmanian information technology sector in activities ranging from the handling of satellite data to sophisticated numerical climate simulations. ACE is the proponent behind the Tasmanian High-Performance Computing centre which plays a part in the Intellectual Island initiative and ensures that Tasmanian corporations, researchers and students have access to world class facilities.

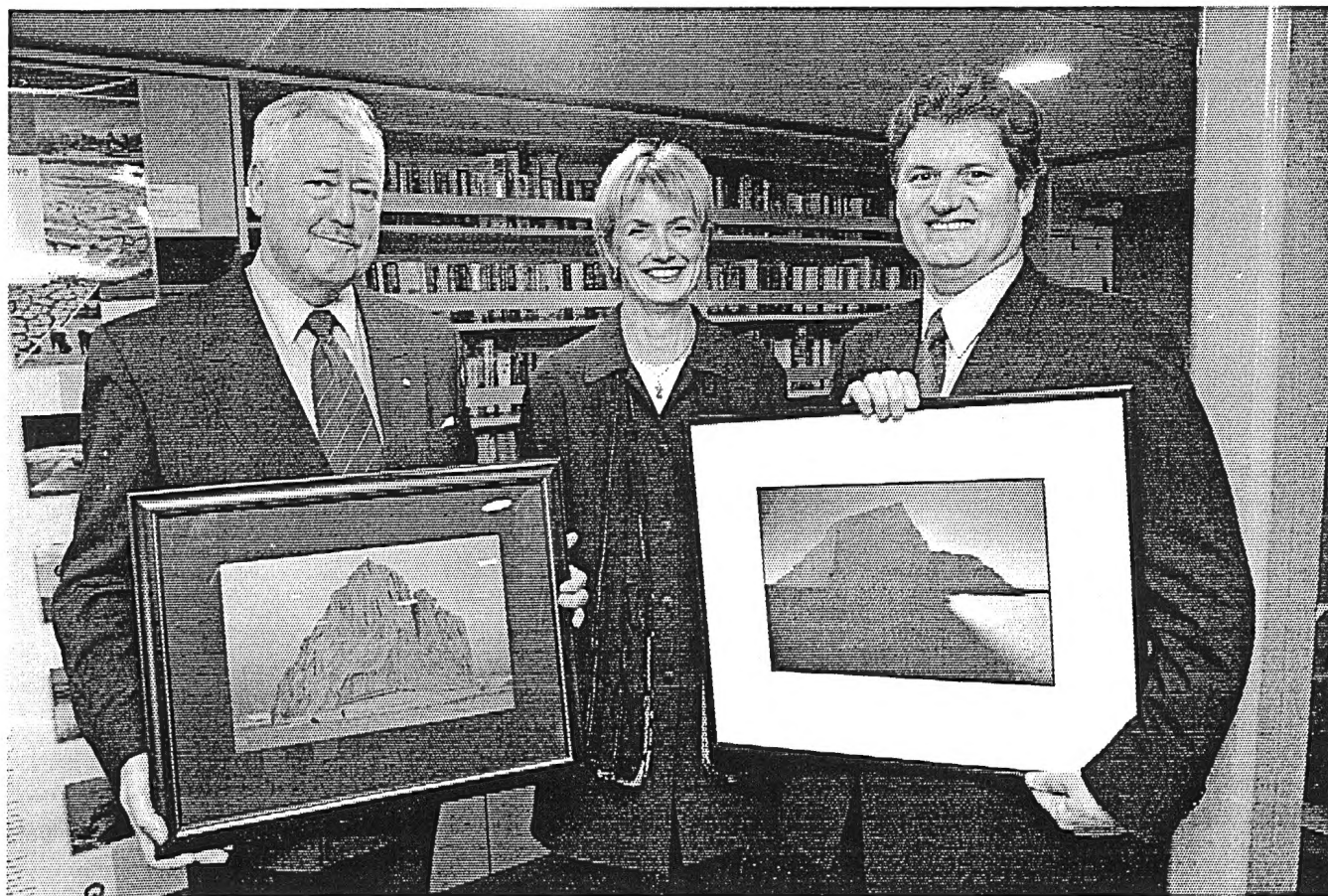
These are exciting times for Antarctic research.'





Above: The Hon Peter McGauran MP launching the ACE CRC aboard *Aurora Australis*.

Below: (L-R) The Hon Justice W.J.E. Cox, Dr Katherine Woodthorpe and the Hon Peter McGauran MP



[All photos courtesy of Chris Crerar and ACE CRC]



At present, I'm acting as General Manager of *Antarctic Tasmania* while Greg Johannes is temporarily seconded to another area within the Department of Economic Development. During this period, *Antarctic Tasmania* welcomes Brett Dackiewicz who is acting in the position of Executive Officer at the Salamanca Office.

Now that the 2003 Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival is over, it is satisfying to reflect on the Antarctic community's success in hosting over 35,000 people at festival's events. Well-deserved praise is due to all the talented individuals and organisations who contributed generously to this year's program. The spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm for showcasing all that is special about Tasmania's unique connections with Antarctica is a distinguishing aspect that sets Hobart apart from other Antarctic Gateways. This dimension of our community is something that we should all celebrate and continue to develop.

Some of the many highlights at this year's Festival included the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra's concert to images of Antarctica that included a moving tribute in memory of Wayne Papps. Record attendances were also recorded at both the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens and the sell-out film sessions. In addition, the *RSV Aurora Australis* open day, Australian Antarctic Division's air sea rescue and re-enactment of Amundsen's husky team racing Scott to the South Pole were all resoundingly successful. Glowing feedback was received from some of the 1800 Tasmanian school children who were privileged to take part in the Antarctic Discovery Days Program. Other highlights included the Science on Sunday display at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, photographic exhibitions and the mid-winter dinner.

Seed funding and dates for the 2004 Midwinter Festival has been confirmed. It will be held from 18-27 June 2004 and planning will commence in October.

Recently, Greg Johannes participated as part of the Australian Delegation at the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) held in Spain. Following this, I had the pleasure of accompanying Lara Giddings, MHA Parliamentary Secretary for Antarctic Affairs to the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP) meeting held in France. During the meeting, Lara signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of the Tasmanian Government, that finalised the formal arrangement to host the COMNAP Secretariat in Hobart until 2009.

*Antarctic Tasmania* is about to commission work to produce a web portal that will provide access and promote Tasmania's Antarctic community. In other news, Cordula Ruckstuhl is compiling the proceedings from the fourth Governor's Antarctic Forum and Brett Dackiewicz is undertaking a review of the TPN's website and preparing for the commercialisation workshop that will be held this September.

A major focus for *Antarctic Tasmania* over the coming months will be to coordinate the policy development process for Tasmania's new *Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean Policy* that is scheduled for release in March 2004. Information forums will be arranged to promote the policy development process, and to call for submissions and public comment. *Antarctic Tasmania* welcomes input from all members of the Antarctic community with regard to this policy.

**Ben Galbraith**  
Acting General Manager



## **A SOUTHERN STORM**

RSV AURORA AUSTRALIS, our Antarctic Research and Supply ship is no stranger to rough seas between its home port of Hobart in Tasmania and the Australian bases in the big white continent, but occasionally a storm can generate some impressive seas. Such was the case recently when the ship was on passage to Prydz Bay to carry out marine science close to the Amery ice Shelf, which is the floating tongue of ice that forms the one hundred mile wide seaward end of the Lambert Glacier. Four days into the three thousand mile southwesterly leg of the voyage, AURORA AUSTRALIS came into the storm field of a very fast moving and active low pressure system sweeping through the Southern Ocean, and experienced some powerful winds and waves.

The ship's Master, Captain Les Morrow, sent some additional detail by e-mail to the meteorological bureau in Hobart, to expand the coded weather reports being complied onboard. He wrote from the ship's logbook as follows:

"We had been watching the part of the storm for a few days previously, on both the synoptic charts and our satellite imaging receiver, and had contemplated trying to avoid the worst of it. But the speed at which the storm centre was moving, convinced me that to get out of the way I really needed to be driving a high-speed ferry!



Conditions freshened up from about midday on the 30<sup>th</sup> January as the wind veered from the west to north and increased to 45 knots. By mid-afternoon the wind was fifty knots with ten metre waves, and it was then that we decided to heave-to. The wave period was very sort, (less than five seconds), and this made the ship motion very uneasy and caused water to be shipped over the bow. This is quite an unusual thing for us, as our broad beam well forward means that we normally throw the water away in heavy seas. Down aft, the

rapid and heavy pitching motion of the ship meant that the trawl deck was frequently awash to considerable depths as the stern ramp scooped up wave after wave. More than one wave that filled the entire trawl deck, came over the winch platform as well, and reached the underside of the heli-deck. I was standing there with the boatswain checking things, and we were both buried by water with a temperature of five degrees Celsius!

Conditions worsened through the night, and by midday on the 31<sup>st</sup>, winds were 60 to 65 knots from the west-north-west, and wave heights 14 metres and still with a very short period. From then on, wave heights increased to 16 or 17 metres and during that part of the storm, our Chief Steward Garry Phillips, took some spectacular photographs. On several occasions, as our foremast disappeared into a wave, we held our breath until it emerged unscathed.

By midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup>, winds began to back and ease in strength, and by the morning of February 1<sup>st</sup> we had resumed our passage on the most comfortable course possible in the confused swells. While a few of the scientists onboard would not necessarily agree with such a description, those of us on our feet all agreed that it had been a first class storm!"

[Article and photo kindly provided by Captain Les Morrow and P&O Polar Pty Ltd]

## **A WINTER DIARY**

ICE BREAKER's Antarctic diary was crammed with activities this last quarter, starting with an 8.00 am visit to TMAG to watch an Igloo being craned over the wall into the courtyard at the end of May. I was unable to observe TMAG's school art program over the June holidays because of extra magazines to distribute, but the resulting items, produced to add to the Bond Store Macquarie Island display, were great. I did join TPN members and festival sponsors at the Midwinter Festival Pre-Launch function at Antarctic Tasmania, followed by the Launch, Cinderella, live music and the Snow Petrels performance. Once again, the weather was suitably chilly.

On the Monday of the Festival I helped supervise the Antarctic photographs on display at the Conservatory at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG), although 2 hours of tinkling water in the fountain became rather distracting! Photographers' names and titles of photos on all, rather than a few, pictures would have been helpful. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings were spent at TMAG providing Igloo information to school groups and other Festival Volunteers. [I noted that all volunteers wore name tags, but few stated their Antarctic connection, i.e. their institute, organisation or business name. Perhaps next year's tags could state that too, so that those attending events may know they have met someone with special expertise in their field.] On Friday I attended the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra's wonderful Midwinter Concert, Expedition South. I missed the Longest Night Film Festival because of family commitments, but was also disappointed I could not take my teenage son because all films (as yet officially unclassified) were originally rated for those 18 years and over, only later allowing children if accompanied by an adult. Let's hope next year's selection is suitably classified from the start.

On Saturday I attended the Phillip Law Lecture given this year by Dr Barry Jones, who provided an interesting personal and political viewpoint on Australian Antarctic activities over the years. The Midwinter Dinner followed the lecture and I sat with other TPN members, enjoying the Hotel Grand Chancellor's delicious food and Moorilla wine. I wisely stayed the night at the hotel so it was only a short drive to the RTBG for the Huskies' Picnic and sledge race, more food and wine and live music. A busy week! Later that month I attended a thank you barbecue for Festival volunteers at the Gardens and it was encouraging to hear such good reports from all who participated.

July also included a busy week, with a TPN meeting including a presentation by Harris Print, a new member; the launch of the new Antarctic Climate & Ecosystems CRC aboard the *Aurora Australis* and the fourth and final Governor's Forum on Antarctic. Anyone attending the Forum who did not get excited about Tasmania's potential for Antarctic research, transport, education and business activities must have been asleep!



## **AIRLINK INNOVATIONS - BASED IN TASMANIA**

*Extracts from the presentation made by Norman Mackey, Chief Executive Officer of Skytraders, at the Fourth Governor's Forum on Antarctica, August 1, 2003.*

- 'What the Antarctic Division and Skytraders are doing together will redefine Cold Climate Aviation and will present for Tasmania the opportunity to become the springboard for an Antarctic hub servicing the Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) and beyond.
- The development programme which we now have underway in Canada will result in the first new Transport Category aircraft to be put on skis in some 40 years.
- Australia's internationally acclaimed technological leap to position the Air Transport System which we are currently building is not only an Air Transport System for Australia but a potential Common User System for the world's National Antarctic Programmes.
- The Dassault Falcon 900EX which will be based here in Hobart is a state of the art long-range intercontinental three-engined jet. It meets the most stringent requirements for remote operations and will journey south each week travelling in the stratosphere in the higher latitudes, high above commercial 747's, before engaging its advanced electronic landing systems, which will deliver new levels of safety to the planet's most hostile climatic conditions. Upon arrival at Casey scientists can be transferred to a waiting ski-equipped CASA-212 aircraft which can transport them on to their final destinations...
- Skytraders believes that the world-beating performance of its CASA 212-400 will cause it to become the aircraft of choice for countries looking for a modern fixed wing platform from which to conduct ski-equipped airborne science programmes.
- My vision is for Tasmania to become a Global Centre for Cold Climate Aviation Excellence. Those members of the International Science Community who do business in Antarctica owe a duty of care to expeditioners to ensure that the Air Transport Systems they select satisfy World's Best Practice. We will transport people more safely and we will do so with less impact on fragile Antarctic ecosystems. Our 900EX will uplift little or no fuel in Antarctica, our runway construction programme uses no raw materials other than snow and ice.
- Economies of scale will enable the AAD and Skytraders to offer a compelling commercial package when teamed with new generation safety and a state of the art environmental focus.
- **As Australia redefines World's Best Practice, a unique window of opportunity will open. Hobart will be placed at the forefront of this leading-edge technology and must seize the day.**

For further information contact Skytraders Pty Ltd. Tel. (02) 9693 2166 Email [nfm@skytraders.com.au](mailto:nfm@skytraders.com.au)



Part of the re-enactment of the Scott Expedition to the South Pole, at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

[Photo: Chris Crerar for Antarctic Tasmania]

# **THE ICE BOX - “Supporting Antarctic Education”**

## **WHAT IS THE ICE BOX?**

The Ice Box provides resources to help educators create learning experiences for students, to mutually gain and then share a love and passion for Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, to help develop an Antarctic learning community in Tasmania and to foster and promote links between ‘Antarctic’ educators in Tasmania and those in the USA.

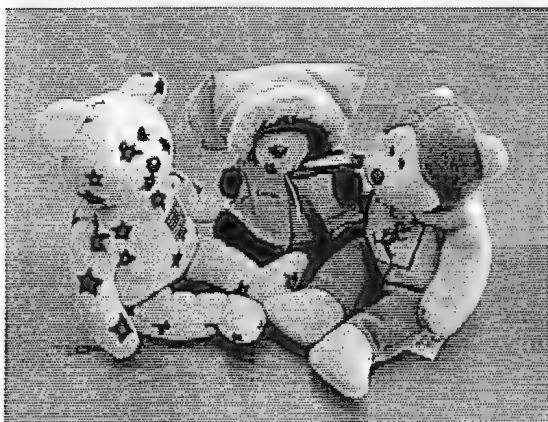
The Ice Box is an educational outreach project developed as a “Sister States” program in Antarctic education between Illinois (USA) and Tasmania. Betty Trummel from Crystal Lake, Illinois and Gordon Bain formerly of the Antarctic Division in Hobart set up this project in 2001.

## **WHAT ARE ITS ORIGINS?**

In late 1999, Betty and Gordon commenced a collaboration based on Geobears (small teddy bears travelling the world). The bears come from Betty’s Grade 4 students at Husmann Elementary School in Crystal Lake and one, Brownie, went to Antarctica with Gordon as part of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) in early 2000.

What started as a school geography project expanded to a major learning experience about Antarctica and the Southern Oceans based on Gordon’s Antarctic experiences but also Betty’s - for she had been to Antarctica as part of the United States National Science Foundation sponsored Teachers Experiencing Antarctica and the Arctic (TEA) program.

After another expedition in late 2000 this time involving two bears – Berkley from Husmann School and OzGold from Hobart - Gordon went to the USA where he spent time with Betty’s students and others from many schools in the area, speaking of Antarctica and of the Australian Antarctic Program. Part of this trip included taking Betty and one of her students to Ely, Minnesota where they had the chance for a dog sledging run with a team which included Misty – the last working husky left from the group which came out of Mawson station in the early 1990s.



In mid 2001, Betty came to Tasmania where she spoke to a wide range of school audiences as well as at significant public forums. She also took the opportunity to meet with most of the institutions which make up the Tasmanian Polar Community. During her visit, Betty announced the gift of a collection of educational resource material.

So, a beginning with small bears has turned into an exciting project in international education collaboration.

Left: Berkley, Brownie and OzGold

## **WHAT’S IN THE ICE BOX?**

The Ice Box contains material to help teachers and students engaged in Antarctic education whether in Science or SOSE or other curriculum areas or simply using Antarctica as an exciting platform for delivering learning in mathematics, information technology, the arts or other subject areas.

The content is of value to a wide range of student age and interest, and complements the learning opportunities offered through the Antarctic Division's *Classroom Antarctica*, the Education Department’s *The Circle Antarctica*, programs run by Antarctic Adventure and other programs such as the British Antarctic Survey’s *Antarctica School Pack*.

The Ice Box comprises two Primary and one High School kits, with material including:

- Teacher resources and guides
- Information about the Australian Antarctic Program and that of other nations
- Books, maps, posters, photo images
- Video tapes, voice tapes, music CDs, CD ROMs
- Antarctic clothing



The Ice Box on display at TMAG, Teacher's Breakfast, Midwinter Festival 2003



Betty with a budding Expeditioner at Woodbridge

Gordon also happily shares his Antarctic experiences and knowledge through presentations and talks with students. (See photo below of Gordon with a Science Class, Rose Bay)



Since its launch in late 2001 The Ice Box has been at private and government schools, primary and high schools, and as far away as Stanley in the North west. The kits are also frequent visitors at the Marine Discovery centre Woodbridge.

The Antarctic adventures of Berkley and OzGold in late 2000 are also the subject of a website developed at the University of Kansas for the High Plains Regional Technology in Education Consortium. The 2003 version should be released during October this year.

### **HOW IS THE ICE BOX FUNDED?**

A grant from the Golden Gift Fund, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (USA) provided the funds for the major initial content. Other material has since been supplied from contributed funds, or as direct gifts, by donors in Tasmania including the Antarctic Division, the Kingborough Council, the Tasmanian Office of Antarctic Affairs, the Secretariat of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs, Salamanca Place's *Antarctic Adventure* and private individuals.

Friends of Library Kingston (FOLK) and the Antarctic Division funded or supplied the containers housing the material. Businesses in the Kingborough area and the Kingborough Community Enterprise Centre have also been generous in support. Gordon says he is constantly looking for more supporters – with cash donations or by gifts of suitable material. There is no cost to schools for the loan of these materials. As much as he would like to share this resource more widely, Gordon says that costs limit the material to being available only to Tasmanian schools.

### **Further information**

Gordon Bain, 32 Derwent Avenue, Margate. Phone: 03 6267 2143; Mobile: 0408 672 143. Email: [TheIceBox@studies.aq](mailto:TheIceBox@studies.aq)



## **AMBASSADORIAL REFLECTIONS...**

Tasmania's first Honorary Ambassador for Antarctica, Tim Bowden, reflects on the stunningly successful second Midwinter Festival organised by Antarctic Tasmania and sponsored by the Tasmanian Polar Network

*Not everyone gets to sit in the middle of a symphony orchestra performing with a choir – it was a stunning 'surround sound' and a tremendous privilege. The occasion was the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra's special concert 'Expedition South' during which featured a voyage to Antarctica by ship, illustrated by music, polar images on a large screen and narration.*

*When I wrote the original script, to link the musical items and suggest suitable illustrations for this special midwinter concert, it was before Wayne Papps had tragically died, while photographing his beloved Tasmanian wilderness.*

*Fortunately there was time to choose a selection of his best Antarctic work, which was screened while the TSO played Paul Jarman's lyrical piece 'Shackleton', augmented by the pure and soaring voices of the girls in the Ogilvie High School Senior Concert Choir. The moment was made even more poignant by having members of Wayne's family in the audience, and I prefaced this special tribute by saying:*

No Tasmanian has celebrated the beauty of Antarctica more artistically and brilliantly than the renowned photographer Wayne Papps, who died last week at the height of his powers, doing what he loved best, photographing wilderness in his unique style. Wayne Papps had an extraordinary ability to capture not only the great panoramas of landscape and vast skies, but incredible detail in his beautifully composed images.

It is unbearably sad to realise that we have lost this great artist, always modest and unassuming about his talent and his photography. But he has left us an enduring legacy of his outstanding vision and realisation of the natural world.

*A seasonal dusting of snow on Mt Wellington was appropriate to mark the start of the 10-day Mid Winter Festival, which was enthusiastically supported by Tasmanians, and an increasing number of mainland visitors. The Volunteers were magnificent. I met an ex-ANARE hand who had come down from Brisbane, with his wife, specially to help out.*

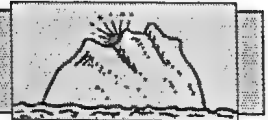
*My Ambassadorial duties kept me on the move from joyous talk fests like the 'Ripping Yarns from the South' session at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and helping to comper the final day's 'Huskies Picnic' featuring a re-enactment of the Scott and Amundsen race to the South Pole on the lush green lawns of Hobart's Royal Botanical Gardens. But it was the dogs who stole the show, to the intense delight of the children and bigger persons who cheered them around the 'polar' circuit.*

*One unexpected assignment was to stand in for the Governor of Tasmania Sir Guy Green to introduce Dr Barry Jones AO, at the Federation Concert Hall, who gave the second Phil Law Lecture. Sir Guy, an enthusiastic supporter of Tasmania's Antarctic connections, was acting as Administrator in Canberra and unable to attend. Dr Phil Law – unstoppable at 91 – sat on the stage during the lecture and added a few words at the end.*

*Then there was the Longest Night Film Festival with the premiere, no less, of the remarkable adventure film 'Hell on Ice' attended by Peter Bland, whose horrendous accident while making an unsupported crossing of the Antarctic Peninsula was featured in the screening. Tasmania's Parliamentary Secretary on Antarctic Affairs, Lara Giddings opened both the film festival, and the Midwinter Festival the following day on Saturday 14 June.*

*The Midwinter Festival also attracted a film crew from the ABC's New Dimensions program with George Negus, and the half-hour special went to air (with the Antarctic Ambassador as a studio guest) on Monday 18 August, featuring interviews with ANARE scientists and expeditioners currently working in Antarctica.*

*The Festival Director, the unflappable Paul Cullen, and his team pulled off the best Midwinter Festival yet – with the implicit agenda that it has to be even bigger and better next year!*



## RARE WHALES AROUND TASMANIA

Observed in the Derwent River in July was a Southern Right Whale, which passed under the Tasman Bridge before returning to the coast to continue its migration north. Several pods of whales were seen moving up the East Coast and sightings can be reported to the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) on 0427 942 537.

An all white humpback whale sighted off the Queensland coast was mistaken for a rare white whale because of its colouring. Humpback's underbellies are always white and they occasionally have white patches on their dorsal saddles, but are rarely white all over.

A whale found dead on an East Coast beach in June was identified as a Shepherd's beaked whale, only the third found in Australia.

An even more unusual whale beached at Cremorne in June. Purchased by DPIWE's Nature Conservation Branch, it was a 7 metre long inflatable whale which, when filled with 3 tonnes of water, can be used to train volunteers in whale rescue techniques.

## NEW AQUARIUM PLANNED

A Southern Ocean Aquarium is to be established in the Derwent River near Hobart. Two sites are being considered, one at Kangaroo Point on the eastern Shore and one at Wilkinson's Point near the Derwent Entertainment Centre in Glenorchy. The proposed facility would include Southern Ocean fish, inland fish and plants, as well as a gift shop, cafe, function area and educational facilities.

## NATIONAL OCEANS OFFICE PLANS

NOO is encouraging input from the community into their Regional Marine Plan Steering Committees. Details of meetings, presentations and Workshops will be made available on their website: [www.oceans.gov.au](http://www.oceans.gov.au)

## THE PIRATES REPORT

Scientific studies and legal fishing of Patagonian toothfish in the Southern Ocean had to be abandoned by a Tasmanian fishing boat recently. The *Janus*, operated by Petunia Sealord, returned to Devonport in July, having been forced out of Antarctic waters near Heard Island by 4 unidentifiable boats believed to be illegally fishing

inside CCAMLR protected zones.

During August, a Uruguayan boat was chased for several weeks by Australian Customs and Fisheries, but requests for the boat to dock at an Australian port for inspection were ignored.

## COOL PHOTOS

Antarctic photos in Gallery Five of Doherty's Cradle Mountain Hotel are now accessible at [www.wildernessgallery.com.au](http://www.wildernessgallery.com.au)

## CHANGEOVERS

Hobart will host the COMNAP Secretariat for a further 6 years, with the new Secretary, Antoine Guichard, formerly of Latitude Technologies, replacing Jack Sayers, in October 2003.

Also in October, Tasmania's new Governor, Richard Butler, will replace Sir Guy Green. Sir Guy's interest in Antarctic activities has been much appreciated and it is hoped Mr Butler will continue this involvement.

## BUSINESS REFERENCES: GET IN THERE!

<http://biztas.com> – a FREE guide to Tasmanian businesses available in 6 languages. Enter your details online and press 'publish' button for inclusion.

<http://www.iris.tas.gov.au> – a very comprehensive guide to Tasmania, with links to businesses and government departments. IB contacted Iris re a section for Antarctic goods and services, but was told that at this stage, businesses had to include 'Antarctic' in their information for a link to be made. TPN members are urged to make their Antarctic connection clear.

## OTHER WINTER ACTIVITIES

Besides the Midwinter Festival, the winter months in Tasmania generated publicity about a wide range of Antarctic-related activities including:

- The Parliamentary Secretary for Antarctica, Sharman Stone, opening a new herbarium containing species of Antarctic mosses, lichens and liverworts at the AAD.
- The announcement that *MV Vasily Golovkin* will replace *MV Polar Bird* as the AAD's second Antarctic resupply vessel. The Russian ship is a Vitus Bering-class icebreaking transport vessel large enough to resupply several bases during a single voyage.

# ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE



## **Ship Wrecks, Sealers and Scientists - Macquarie Island is now “cool” - Thanks to Fahan School, Parks and Wildlife and Antarctic Adventure**

A school multi-media project focusing on one of Tasmania’s best kept “secrets” Macquarie Island, has brought three diverse organisations together in a bid to raise awareness about Tasmania’s subantarctic island.

*Ship Wrecks, Sealers and Scientists — Macquarie Island* is a website developed by a year 11 and 12 students at Fahan School last year as part of their IT curriculum.

The impressive site was developed in conjunction with Tasmania’s Parks and Wildlife Service and is featured on the Service’s website ([www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)).

Antarctic Adventure General Manager Rodney Cameron-Tucker “discovered” the students’ handiwork earlier this year, and was so impressed that he contacted the teacher who co-ordinated the project, Peter Lelong.

“The students have done a fantastic job with site. From the design to the content, it’s obvious that a lot of time and effort has gone into this,” he said.

“I knew immediately that this was just what we needed in the Centre to complement our recently updated Macquarie Island display in the foyer area.

“Many Tasmanians know all about Antarctica and Tasmania’s connections with it, but few know as much about Macquarie Island, which is part of our state.

“I thought this would be the ideal opportunity and the perfect venue to bring it all together.”

Four of the Centre’s special PCs now include the *Ship Wrecks, Sealers and Scientists* website, allowing all visitors to explore Tasmania’s Sub-Antarctic island, without leaving the comfort and warmth of one of Tasmania’s most popular visitor attractions.

Mr Lelong said the website was developed specifically for students and educators, but was of interest to everyone. “The site contains information about Macquarie Island in three journals, and also includes an Information Hut and some fun games and challenges, along with classroom activities,” he said.

“The mysteries section of the website is particularly popular, and the ship wreck section certainly has people intrigued.”

And during the whole “tour”, visitors can enjoy a sea shanty or five!

Although *Ship Wrecks, Sealers and Scientists* was only introduced to the Centre two weeks ago, it has already become one of the most popular activities.

Mr Cameron-Tucker attributes this to the website’s ability to fulfil the same criteria as Antarctic Adventure — to simultaneously educate and entertain.

“You have a an abundance of information that is presented in a way that is visually appealing, plus all the games, challenge and mysteries to make learning fun — there is no better combination,” he said.

“I commend Fahan School and Parks and Wildlife Service for their efforts. Antarctic Adventure is proud to be able to raise awareness about Macquarie Island through such a great medium.”

**Rodney Cameron-Tucker**  
**General Manager**  
**Antarctic Adventure**  
**Tel: 6220 8220**





Above: Macquarie Island display, at Antarctic Adventure. [Photo: Antarctic Adventure.]

Below: Snow Petrel performance, Midwinter Festival. [Photo: Chris Crerar for Antarctic Tasmania.]



## MACQUARIE MEMORIES NO. 1 (cont.) by Peter Ford

### *Those bothersome balloons!*

My technical duties as cosmic ray scientist at the island did not occupy all my time. Care of scientific equipment was usually weekly checks and emergency maintenance. Recorded data on film was processed weekly and formatted for transmission by radio. On the other hand, the weathermen were on duty all the time. Being the only meteorological station for thousands of kilometres, the data was important for Australian weather forecasting. Normally there were three observers, but owing to an unfortunate situation, one of the observers was rendered incapable of performing his duties a few months after his arrival at the island.

Since I had plenty of spare time, I volunteered to help with some of their work. The operators usually worked in eight-hour shifts since instrument readings were taken regularly day and night. My assistance was restricted to aiding in the operation of the radiosonde. Once daily, a box of met equipment was lifted by balloon to the upper atmosphere. Data was continuously radioed back to the ground station, analysed and relayed to the Australian Met Bureau as soon as possible. The radiosonde package was suspended from the balloon by a few metres of strong cord to avoid balloon affects from disturbing the atmospheric data.

The balloon was filled with hydrogen, which was manufactured in the morning by mixing a chemical and water in large gas cylinders. It was necessary to allow plenty of time for the reaction to take place, cool down and settle to avoid chemical products from entering the balloon during filling in the early afternoon. The balloon was filled in a small hut adjacent to the met lab. The doors to the hut faced east because the winds at the island were predominately from the west, they blew almost constantly at speeds up to 170 Km per hour. Average speeds were about 50 Km. Launching the balloon in a strong wind was quite a feat.

The first problem was to get the balloon out of the filling hut. The hut was not much bigger than the filled balloon; there was no room around the sides of the filled balloon. As soon as it was out of the hut, the wind got it and started to bounce it on the ground. Fortunately there were no sharp rocks nearby and this was not too much of a concern. However, if the wind was from the east, big trouble. The balloon would try and wrap itself around the shed. The trick was to try and run away as fast as possible, holding onto the bouncing balloon before it could damage itself. Most of the balloon breakages occurred under these circumstances.

Even when the wind was from the west, the usual direction, difficulties arose. The filling shed was only a few metres from the water's edge and the wind would cause the balloon to pull the package cord horizontal. In order to launch the package, it was necessary to have the balloon right above the sonde by the time the water was reached, otherwise the sonde would swing into the water and be wrecked. Simply throwing the sonde into the air did not work because the wind simply blew the balloon away before it started to lift and the sonde would drag on the ground. You had to walk backwards in to the wind, holding the sonde, with the balloon bouncing madly on the ground in front of you until you could get enough running room. Then you ran like mad, trying to catch up with the balloon so it would lift sufficiently high to safely launch the sonde before you ran into the water. If you tried to get a lot of running room there was the increased danger of the balloon bursting.

This procedure was also not helped by the fact that the guy wires for the radio masts were behind you as you backed into the wind. We did have a few devices called string unwinders. These were secured right next to the balloon with the sonde attached. With this short arrangement, balloons could be essentially thrown into the air. As the balloon lifted, the unwinders payed out the correct length of cord. These devices were scarce, probably because of cost so we had to use these sparingly, only in the worst of conditions. With conditions generally bad, judging which were the worst was no mean feat.

Occasionally, the sonde was water damaged or the balloon burst. Because of the importance of the data, it was necessary to launch another one right away. The hydrogen generator cylinders had to be refilled with the chemicals and the gas used as soon as it was available. Now the gas was hot and contained corrosive compounds. Filling a balloon with this mixture was dangerous because if it burst, one could be burnt by the mixture. Also, the hot gas did not have as much lifting force because of the maximum volume that could be loaded into the balloon. On only one occasion there was absolutely no wind and the launch was piece of cake.

One day, the radio receiver for the sonde failed. I found that the input transformer that coupled the aerial to the receiver had become open circuit. A major disaster, as no spare for this part was available. One of the things that you do on an island with limited supplies is be creative. I managed to find a power transformer amongst my cosmic ray spares that would allow the receiver to work, but at very reduced sensitivity. This gave us some operational ability until I could repair the old transformer. Over several days, this involved carefully unwinding the hair-like transformer wire, layer by layer onto a cardboard cylinder mounted on a hand operated drill secured in a vice, until I came across the fault. Of course it was on the last layer unwound! Corrosion had severed the wire. Because of the constant salt spray and mist carried by the wind, corrosion was an ongoing problem. The wire was carefully rejoined and the transformer rewound with great care and lots of varnish to make it corrosion resistant. It worked and the sonde receiver was back on the air with a full strength signal.

### Macquarie Island in the 1950's



Above: Bull Fights.

Left: Max Flutter releasing sonde balloon.

Below: Weaned pups on east of Isthmus.



[All photos courtesy Peter Ford]



## **MIDWINTER AT BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Dogs in the Gardens – something out of the ordinary for the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) when they were involved in this year's Midwinter Festival, which ran from the 14 to 22 June in partnership with Antarctic Tasmania.

The Gardens played host to the Huskies Picnic, a fun event that involved a re-enactment of the race to the South Pole between Amundsen and Scott. Although the snow wasn't as plentiful as the real thing, the winter chill and seeing everyone in their big winter coats sure gave the right feeling for the event.

The day, attracting over 3,000 visitors to the Gardens, involved the symbolic Husky sled race with a team of dogs putting their power against the men from the Antarctic. Of course, the dogs won. There were demonstrations on setting up tents and all sorts of fun Antarctic activities. To keep everyone warm, popular Hobart Band Rektango took to the stage in the afternoon to get everyone up and moving with their great funky beats.

Along with the fun activities there were a series of informative lectures based on Subantarctic Flora with relevant plant displays given by Australian Antarctic Division Scientists. Professor Pat Quilty gave popular guided tours of the Gardens based around the Gondwana theme.

Photographic exhibitions were held in the Discovery Centre, Gallery and Conservatory based around Antarctica & Islands. These included works by Eric Woehlor, Mike Craven and Andy Townsend. The exhibitions offered the Gardens a unique opportunity to make use of the Conservatory during the winter period and also provided shelter for the visitors with a break for the winter chill.

The RTBG is pleased to be a Festival Partner and congratulates the Antarctic Tasmania team for an outstanding effort. We would also like to thank the staff of the Australian Antarctic Division, Professor Pat Quilty, the exhibitors, Friends of the RTBG and Festival Volunteers for their support. Camp Quality also received good support through sausage sizzle sales.

The Festival was a great fun event to be held in the Gardens and now forms an important part of the events calendar – can't wait for next year.

**Liz Sadler**

**Marketing and Events Officer**



[Photo: RTBG]

# **'IN THE LAND OF WHITE DEATH' by V. Albanov**

## **BOOK REVIEW BY IRINA KARMANOVSKAIA**

I would like to share with our readers the true story of Arctic adventure, found in one of my favourite books: Valerian Albanov's "In the land of white death." (The book can be found in the Tasmanian State Library and will be soon on sale in the bookshops). It is the diary of the chief navigation officer Albanov, one of the two survivors of Georgiy Brusilov's Arctic expedition of 1912-1914.

Twenty-three men and one woman came aboard the "St. Anna" on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1912 in St. Petersburg. They planned to sail to Vladivostok, looking for new opportunities for hunting whales. Instead they became trapped by ice and forced to spend two winters in the cold and darkness of the Arctic. Albanov and 13 companions decided to leave the "St. Anna", as it was clear that the ship would never get free. Albanov tried to prepare as many necessary and useful things as possible: they made kayaks and sledges out of the materials they had on board. Each of the sledges weighed 400 pounds, but it was "friendship that helped" to pull them. Their provisions consisted of Australian canned meat, salt, biscuits and ... another precious thing – letters; for several days those who were staying behind had been constantly writing to their loved ones.

They set out on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1914 across the ice to Frantz Josef Land through 400 km of continuous danger, desperately striving for the South, but were pushed North by drifting ice. Albanov had only one map in a copy of Nansen's book "Further North" and a compass that soon broke. Very often dizziness, scurvy, long and complicated repairs and lack of fuel, good sledges and of sledge dogs accompanied them. Two men from the party left them, stealing most of their food.

Albanov gives brilliant characteristics of his friends who were left on board the "St. Anna": for example, the only woman Yerminya Zhdanko who "shared all problems with extraordinary courage", or those who went with him, like the Ukrainian sailor Denisov, who once had been "on South George Island in the stormy waters of Antarctica", but as soon as he "heard of Brusilov's intention to go whale hunting in the Arctic and Far East, he volunteered at once." Or those whom he met later like Mr. Vize on board the "St. Foka", who "played the piano like a maestro." Bayev, who "went to search for a new better route and did not come back" was the first man lost at the beginning of May 1914. Albanov showed great concern for his comrades. He wrote in his diary, that he "will not rest until...he managed to save them in spite of themselves", waiting for lost ones for days, encouraging them to go on, insisting that their recovery depended on the strength of their will to live. He strengthened their faith that they will "reach land sooner or later" and that their "two-year odyssey through the Arctic waters would finally end." The author also gave a vivid and accurate account of animals they came across, noting, that "polar bears are hardly friendly creatures but compared to walruses they can be considered almost harmless" and that "they might have some chance of success against a bear, but bitter experience had taught them to avoid walruses at all costs." Meanwhile "the storm was shrieking its triumphant overture, crushing everything on its path." Time passed and to their delight at last they saw land, stones and flowers. Their joy was indescribable. Alexandra Island made them feel "completely at home."

In the end only two of the thirteen were left: Albanov and Konrad. Sometimes "moments of extreme danger seemed to last an eternity", but they refused to give in to despair. Albanov and Konrad reached Cape Flora of Frantz Josef Land and "Columbus himself ...could not have been more moved." Ninety days of their struggle for survival were behind them! They found a base, used by Sedov's Arctic expedition: "a real house made of logs" and white biscuits. "For so long such delicious food had only existed in their dreams..." All hardships were quickly forgotten. "Had we really suffered such hardships... in the ice and snow in our miserable kayaks in the middle of the cruel sea, with nothing to drink or keep us warm? Or had it all been a nightmare?" Albanov kept asking himself.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of July they were rescued by the returning Sedov expedition. They could not be happier. They put on their Sunday best. Albanov greeted his rescuers with the following words: "I am the navigator Albanov from the Brusilov expedition. I left the "St. Anna" three month ago and managed to reach Cape Flora."

"Miraculously rescued after so many hardships" they "finally disembarked in Arkhangelsk in September 1914." No trace was ever found of Brusilov and his people. Their destiny is unknown.



**'SEA ICE'** edited by Dr. David Thomas and Dr. Gerhard Dieckman. Published by Blackwell Publishing. Price: Unknown. Further details from [www.awi-bremerhaven.de](http://www.awi-bremerhaven.de)

Details current knowledge about sea ice and its biology, geology, physics and chemistry as researched by renowned polar scientists.

**'SEABIRD ATLAS OF SOUTH-EASTERN AUSTRALIAN WATERS'** collated by Birds Australia and Pasminco. Price: Unknown.

Includes survey data collected over twenty years about albatrosses, shearwaters and other birds with breeding colonies on Tasmania's coastal areas.

**'THE WHALING SEASON: AN INSIDE ACCOUNT OF THE STRUGGLE TO STOP COMMERCIAL WHALING'** by Kieran Mulvaney. Published by Shearwater Books. Price: \$55.95. Describes Greenpeace activities in Antarctic waters during attempts to prevent Japanese whaling practices.

**'STORM AND SILENCE: A PORTRAIT OF THE TASMAN SEA'** by Joe Cannon. Price: \$59.95. Describes the author's 6000 nautical mile voyage in the Tasman Sea in 1988 in 14.8m steel cutter.

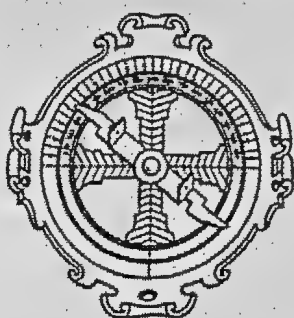
**'ANTARCTIC WRITER ON ICE'** by Hazel Edwards. Published by Common Ground Publishing. Price: Unknown.

A diary version of the author's voyage to Antarctica in 2001.

**'ANTARCTICA'S FROZEN CHOSEN'** by Hazel Edwards. Published by Lothian. Price: \$15.95. An eco-terrorism mystery novel set in Antarctica, for young adults.

**'THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO ANTARCTIC WILDLIFE'** by Hadoram Shirihai. Price: \$NZ115.00. Covers the Antarctic continent, the Southern Ocean and the Sub-Antarctic islands. Features expert text, colour photos and illustrations of all the region's breeding birds and marine animals.

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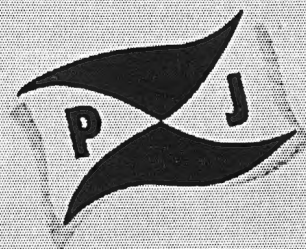
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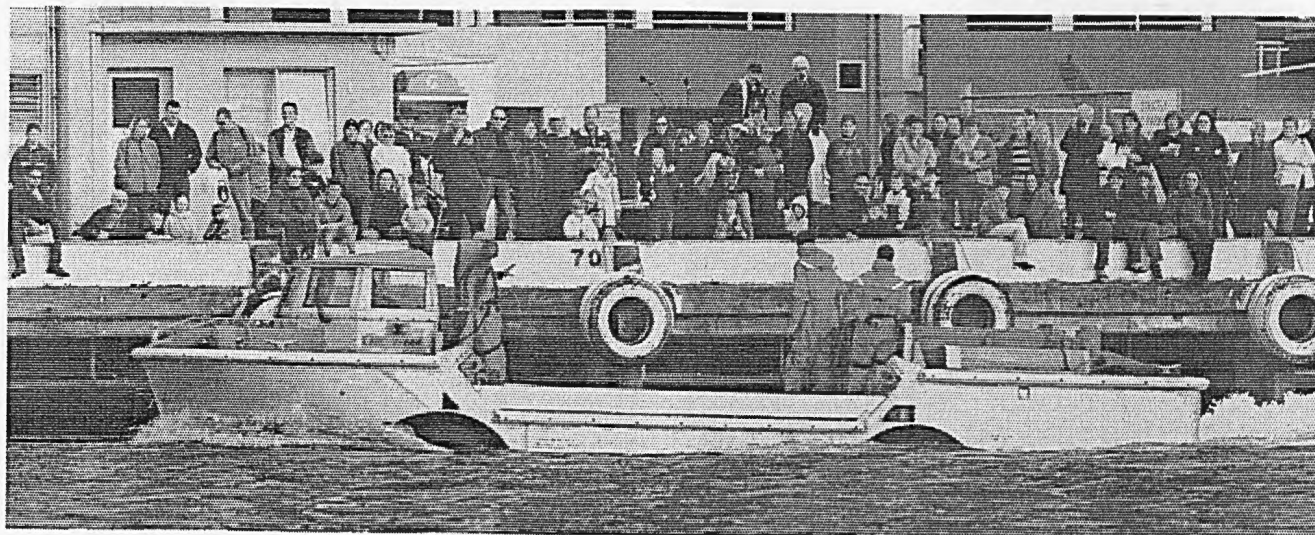
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# POLAR CALENDAR



12-14	September	2003	Marine Education Society of Australia (MESA) Conference 'Hidden Depths - Explore the Deep South'. University of Tasmania, <b>Hobart, Tas.</b> For further details: <a href="http://www.mesa.edu.au">www.mesa.edu.au</a>
16	September	2003	TPN Annual General Meeting. 11.00am – 1.00 pm. CCAMLR, <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
24	September	2003	TPN Procurement and Commercialisation Workshop. Hadley's Hotel, <b>Hobart, Tas.</b> Contact <a href="mailto:Brett.Dackiewicz@development.tas.gov.au">Brett.Dackiewicz@development.tas.gov.au</a>
18-25	September	2003	Conference on the future of South Georgia. Cambridge, UK. Contact: <a href="mailto:David.Rootes@poles.apart.org">David.Rootes@poles.apart.org</a> or <a href="mailto:rwburton@ntlworld.com">rwburton@ntlworld.com</a> .
6	October	2003	Last day of 'In the Ice', an exhibition by Jenni Mitchell. Barn Gallery, Montsalvat, Victoria.
27 7	October November	2003- 2003	CCAMLR meetings. Wrest Point. <b>Hobart, Tas.</b>
24	November	2003	Total solar eclipse. Queen Mary and Dronning Maud Land, Antarctica.
28 8	November December	2003- 2003	'Think Tank on Ice' Antarctic cruise. Contact: <a href="mailto:rixs@ozemail.com.au">rixs@ozemail.com.au</a>
?	February	2004	Skytraders takes delivery of the first CASA-212 aircraft to be used for the Hobart to Casey Base air link.
?	March	2004	Launch of Tasmania's new 'Antarctic, Sub-Antarctic and Southern Ocean Policy'.
3-5	May	2004	2 <sup>nd</sup> Malaysian International Seminar on Antarctica: Global Laboratory for Scientific and International Cooperation. Penang, Malaysia.
?	June	2004	International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) Annual General Meeting. Christchurch, NZ.
26-30	July	2004	Council of Managers of International Antarctic Programs XVI (COMNAP) Meetings. Bremen, Germany.
13-17	July	2004	International Symposium on Cold Region Development (ISCORD). Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan. Contact: <a href="mailto:sasaki@decnet.or.jp">sasaki@decnet.or.jp</a>



Action on the water at the Midwinter Festival. [Photo: Chris Crerar for Antarctic Tasmania.]





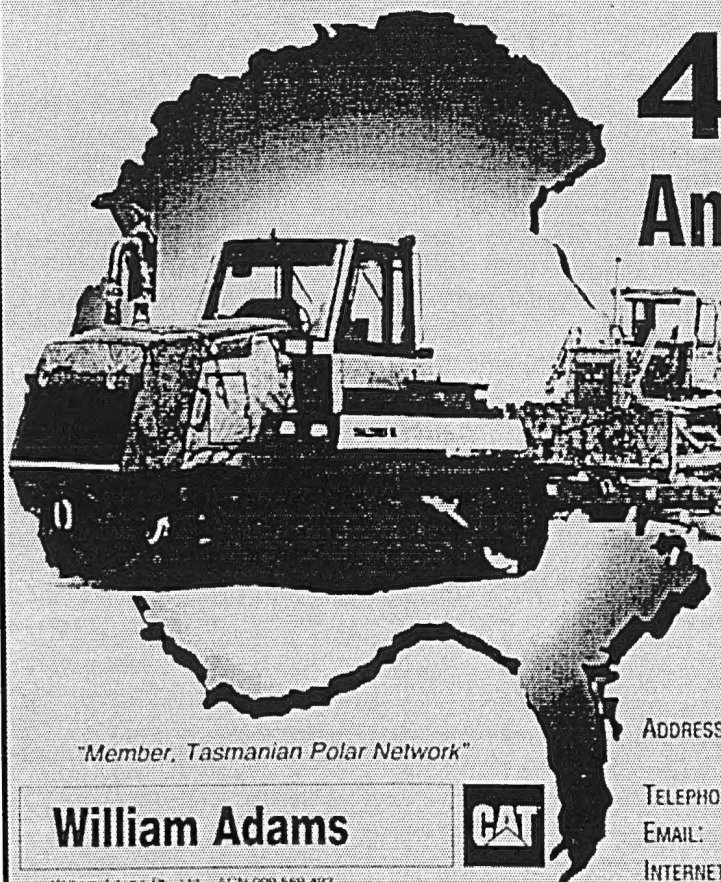
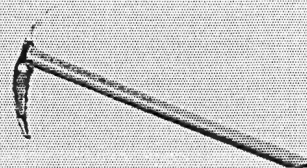
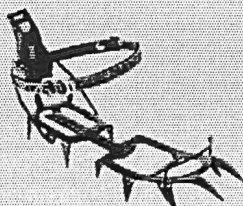
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# ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

9	September	2003-	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Departs Hobart, Marine Science.
18	October	2003		
19-25	October	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V1	Casey Base.
1-3	November	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Arrives Hobart, departs for Davis Base.
5	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Departs Port Elizabeth, South Africa.
13-14	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Kerguelen Island.
15	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Heard Island.
15-23	November	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Davis Base.
21	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Davis Base.
21	November	2003	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.1	Departs Bluff, NZ.
26	November	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Casey Base.
26-27	November	2003	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.1	Macquarie Island.
2	December	2003	SOUTH. SUPPORTER V3	Departs Fremantle, W.A. for Heard Island.
3	December	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V2.1	Arrives Hobart, departs for Macquarie Is.
5-8	December	2003	AURORA AUSTRALIS V2	Arrives Fremantle, departs for Macquarie Is.
6-7	December	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V3.2	Macquarie Island.
8	December	2003	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V3.1	Arrives Dunedin, NZ.
8	December	2003-	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Departs Fremantle, Marine Science.
27	January	2004		
11-16	December	2003	SOUTH. SUPPORTER V3	Heard Island.
26	December	2003	SOUTH. SUPPORTER V3	Arrives Hobart.
27-28	December	2003	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V3.2	Arrives and departs Lyttleton, NZ.
30	December	2003	VASILY GOLOVKIN V5	Departs Hobart for Casey Base.
7	January	2004	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Departs Bluff, NZ.
8-14	January	2004	VASILY GOLOVKIN V5	Casey Base.
10-11	January	2004	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Macquarie Island.
16-17	January	2004	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V4.1	Macquarie Island.
20	January	2004	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V4.1	Arrives Hobart.
21-27	January	2004	VASILY GOLOVKIN V5	Mawson Base.
23-24	January	2004	KAP. KHLEBNIKOV V5.2	Macquarie Island.
30	January	2004	AKAD. SHOKALSKI V5.1	Arrives Bluff, NZ.
30	January	2004-	VASILY GOLOVKIN V5	Davis Base.
5	February	2004		
31	January	2004	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Davis Base.